

MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF NORTH CANTON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

1. Call to Order

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** I'd like to call to order the Council Meeting Monday, January 11, 2016 7:00pm. Mark, would you like to lead us?

2. Opening Prayer – Councilman Cerreta led the opening prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Clerk, please call the roll?

Roll call found the following council members in attendance: Cerreta, Foltz, Fonte, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters and Werren. Thus having 7 in attendance.

5. Consideration

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Alright, may I have a motion and a second to approve as presented:

Financial Statement – October, November and December 2015 Month End Report  
Special Committee of the Whole Minutes: December 14, 2015  
Council Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2015  
Special Council Meeting Minutes: December 21, 2015

**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** Motion to approve as presented.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Second.

Roll call vote of 7 yes, to approve the above minutes and reports.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thank you very much. At this time, if you wish to address council please step forward state your name and address.

6. Recognition of Visitors

**MELANIE J ROLLS:** 308 Portage, North Canton. It's a new year, and perhaps a new beginning. We can hope for that, right? Because of the recent accident of the two students who were harmed January 5, while crossing at the intersection of Main and Maple I would like to repeat a portion of my remarks made at public speaks in March 2012. Yes, 2012. Some of those remarks are the following: How many of you have attempted to cross from one side of Main Street the other at the Main Street intersection? School crossing guards provide assistance during select times during the school year. But for the most part citizens, young and old are on their own. I propose when a pedestrian wishes to cross any of the four streets at Main and Maple and the cross button is activated, traffic stops in all four directions. At that time, the walk sign is illuminated and the person has a minimum of 10 seconds to cross the street. Having all traffic come to a stop even for this abbreviated time alerts everyone there's a pedestrian in one of the crosswalks. With the current traffic light system, citizens have a false sense of security thinking if the walk sign is illuminated cars will not cross into their path. But indeed cars can and do enter that crosswalk when the walk sign is illuminated. The argument against having a 10 second all red zone is it's a detriment to vehicles moving through downtown. The master plan encourages both slowing of traffic and having a more pedestrian friendly downtown. The all red zone could help accomplish both objectives. So this evening, will you address during the reports section of this meeting, how each of you would remedy what I say is a community issue. This past Saturday I crossed Main Street taking the same path as the two girls did earlier this month. With the crosswalk light illuminated. And yes, the motorists approaching from East Maple and wanting to turn south onto Main do indeed have a green light and turn into the path of the pedestrians. I think we all have an obligation to provide a measure of safety, for those wishing to travel as pedestrians in the downtown area. Please give me your thoughts. Thank you.

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** 710 Pierce NW. It's great to see you guys again. I hope you all had great holiday and a Happy New Year. I don't have prepared remarks today, but I'm going to give you a little bit of a back story here. And I will give you supporting documents when I leave. My daughter, I think you've all probably seen pictures of her, she is 6 years old and she goes to Clearmont, she's in kindergarten. She was involved in a bus accident on the way to school on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Nothing major, just provide a little excitement for the day. In fact, I don't even think they missed the morning bell. So was just and they didn't even realize they were in an accident until the bus driver told them that they were in an accident. But this happened over on Woodrow, like I said on December 11. The bus was stopped and a car backed out and backed into the bus. The reason why I bring this up is I want to harken back to a meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> and I think there was a subsequent meeting thereafter or maybe this one was on the following meeting, I don't know. There was a big hullabaloo, if that's the right word, over a

resident's request for records in regards to the swimming pool. And I can remember Mr. Fox droning on for a while about how it would have been illegal for the City to provide those records. And I certainly agree. What bothers me is, is that I'm holding a police report, which you'll receive a copy of 15017066 for this accident. It includes the name, the sex, the age, the address, the phone number of 30 kids including my daughter between the ages of 3 and 8. Now I've been in accidents before, I've gotten the letters from the bottom feeder attorneys. And we'll probably get some more. But it kind of just made me wonder why I'm getting a letter to the parents of Halley McCleaster. I think that that's information that should have been redacted if it was redacted as our law director said it should have been for the pool passes. Its information that should have been redacted for this. So I'll close by saying that the way that I see it is that either an apology needs to be given to the other individual who requested that information or an apology is owed to me and the 29 other families of the children who are named in here. Because God forbid a pleasant looking stranger drives by a house and they now know an age, the sex and the name of the kid and say "hey, I heard you were in a bus accident" and that might draw the kid in to talk a little bit more. So I'd love to hear your thoughts on it at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Mayor, do you have a comment in regards to that? Is that, I know...

**MAYOR HELD:** Yes, as far as the public records. Yeah, as far as the public records what we'll do is we'll talk to the law director, we'll look at our policies. You know, obviously we're here to protect the public but then at the same time there are specific public record laws that we have to comply with. And we want to make sure that we're doing that. And Jamie, I know that it's upsetting to you to have these letters coming to your house. But I'm assuming that you would rather...

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** I'm not worried about the letters, I'm worried about the pedophiles that have my daughter's age and address.

**MAYOR HELD:** So your position is that you would rather have you would not want any documentation going out at all. Including the pool, correct?

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** I think we should be consistent.

**MAYOR HELD:** But my question if I can ask you this, what would you like to see?

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** I'm sorry?

**MAYOR HELD:** What would you like to see done? Would you like...

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** Names are fine but definitely an address (inaudible)

**MAYOR HELD:** So you don't have any opposition then to the pool names being redacted?

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** I never did have any opposition.

**MAYOR HELD:** Okay, I just wanted to make sure of that. (Yeah) Okay, so what we're going to do is; we'll take a look at what the public records policies are. We're really not, you know I'm not in a position to answer this question right now. Because I want to make sure that we're answering it correctly. I mean I think that it's one of those things that, if we're going to have a public records policy, obviously we want to be consistent across the board. And we want to make sure that we're managing right, handling it right, whether or not we could have or should have redacted those names in the police report I can't answer that. But we're going to find out and then...

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Isn't there some kind of age related kind of thing for that? Nothing, Mike?

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** Yeah, I mean, why don't they just say like a male or female?

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** You would think anybody under 15 or something you shouldn't be able to.

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** In the past, we have not been able to redact those records. So as the police, and that's been some of our contentions too that.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** Yeah, you would think with a minor it would just be male or female, male or female, male or female.

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** And we folks come in everyday and scourer those records for those people that will call and write you and that type of thing. But we'll check to make sure we're up-to-date on that. But that's always been a concern of the police department, too, I know.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Is that something that we can change in ours?

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** No.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** No.

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** No, it would be state policy.

**MAYOR HELD:** And the other thing is too, you know, just as Jamie brought up as far as the pool passes. You know, it's like a double edged sword. In some circumstances there may be reluctance or opposition for the local government to give out names and address. But then on the other hand, depending on the situation, you demand it and you want it in timely manner. So what we've got to do is make sure that we're following the state law and you know, the whole thing is we want to operate in an open and transparent manner but then you've got to have a level of discretion. You know, we want to be able to look out for families like yourself, Jamie, where you're in a situation like that. If, if it's under our ability and our authority to do that we've got to look to see what kind of latitude we have. My hunch is that we don't have any, at least based on my experience. But we'll definitely check into that. And you know we don't want to be, sit up here like we're picking and choosing what public records we're going to...

(Mr. McCleaster was speaking from the gallery and not near the microphone)

**MAYOR HELD:** I think you're right, if you're comparing...

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** You shouldn't have this discussion back and forth between...

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, I understand, we'll put an end to this, but I just want to make sure that Jamie and the public out there understands that it's not like we're arbitrarily trying to decide what we're going to release and what we're not. It's not like a whimsical thing, you know, obviously we want to have consistency. And so we're going to take a look at the policy and we will make sure and get an answer for you on that.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Now, just so I understand, this stuff has to come from a request in the police department, then. Right? This is not in the paper or anything like that. This is information.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** I'm just going to put on the record, I don't know where this came from. I don't know why this letter went out. I don't know if this was a public record request. Because I believe that it wasn't, because it did not come through my office. Public record requests come through the law director first, the law director gives an opinion on that. That did not, I don't know if it came as a letter or it was a request. But I will look at it tomorrow.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Where did this come from Jamie?

**JAMIE MCCLEASTER:** Miriam walked in today, they didn't ask her name or anything. She walked up and said "I'd like a police report for the bus accident on December 11<sup>th</sup>". And they gave it to her no questions asked. No charge too, I may add.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, and so here's the thing, and that's what we're going to take a look at. Because it's really, when you look at public records requests and you also look at accident reports. I can tell you that obviously those things are handled differently depending on the situation. And the timing of it. And so obviously it's not intended to be like we're picking and choosing but when you have the police department, they operate you know under certain policies and they're open 24/7, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And so when people want records and Miriam, I'm glad you came in here and took a look at this. Because if there's a way that we should be handling it differently, then we're certainly going to look into it. And then if I can comment also on, do we have anything else that we wanted to talk on?

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** They'll do reports later.

**MAYOR HELD:** What's that?

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** They'll do reports.

**MAYOR HELD:** Oh, okay. That's it.

**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** We're still at public speaks?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Yeah, we're still in public speaks.

**MAYOR HELD:** Oh I'm sorry, just one other item. Melanie, thank you for your comments. We did have 2, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who were hit by a motor vehicle. Which was just a stomach turning, horrible event. Fortunately, both girls are alive and the one child was treated and released. They're both middle school students in North Canton. The other child did have fractures. And, but she is back home and recovering. But you know it's just it is not it's just a terrible, terrible thing. And Melanie, your points are well taken as far as the intersection. Because, obviously...

**MELANIE J ROLLS:** Can't you do something about it?

**MAYOR HELD:** Yes, I understand that. Because you know what would happen is the car was making a left hand turn and clearly you know, the children were walking with the flow of the traffic. And the lady just she just didn't see them. And she did thank God stop the car, but she still hit 2 of them. Two of the children. And it was just you know, terrible, I did talk to the parent of one of the children, the young girl that was that was had the greater injuries. And so we want to make sure that

everybody crossing the street whether they are children or adults, you know, we do not want accidents like this to happen again. So I did ask Mike Grimes and also our police chief and our lieutenant and Jim Benekos our City Engineer, actually the night that it happened to make sure that our intersections are being managed properly with the lights and the buttons. And if there can be an all red zone as Melanie stated she would like all the lights to stop if there is somebody that presses the button a pedestrian so the traffic stops in all areas. And we are definitely going to review that. To see if that is what we should do and how we should do it. Because we don't want this to happen again. Yes?

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** I was just going to say I think I know there's been some discussion about the intersection at Glenwood, Dressler and Whipple as well. Because the bike path is going to continue there. And one of the things that I heard Bob Fonte say earlier was that in order for that to happen there's going to need to be a difference in that light. Because again it's not a pedestrian friendly light. And the same is true of Applegrove and Main Street as well. So I mean I know plans are in the works for the Dressler light and I would say if it was possible we should do the same thing up there at Applegrove. Because people aggressive, all of us are aggressive on that left turn. And it's a long intersection. So I actually saw a guy down on Tusc, get hit, he was in a just this last weekend he was in a one of those scooters and was a disabled individual. And he was coming across and the guy was getting ready to turn right and just ran right into him, the guy fell out. It was awful. It was really terrible.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** I mean is it the turning lane, I mean is there an arrow that says go? Or what?

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** Yeah, up here it is. And the same is true at Applegrove.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** But I mean wouldn't you think that the arrow should not be green for a pause.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, that has to change. I mean we cannot have you can't have confusion between the driver and the pedestrian. I mean it's just not...

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** That's why you don't turn right on red. Because of that, crashing into the turn lane.

**MAYOR HELD:** Right, I mean it just has to we've got to change that. We just cannot have children crossing when you know you've got a green light, whether it's an arrow or whatever the situation is. It just has to that's got to change.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** I mean you guys have a camera there so that you can review everything and make sure what we can do differently.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, we did have cameras. And the other thing is too I mean there's a number of other changes and we can get into that at our report. But you know it's just something that we never want to have happen again. The children were in the right-of-way, they were not outside the right-of-way. They were you know abiding by the laws and the indicators at the intersection. And it was just it was terrible. I mean it's terrible, the good thing is that they're both going to you know they're both alive and they're going to be able to recover. But your, Melanie, your point is very well taken.

**MELANIE J ROLLS:** Please do something.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yes.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Point of order, you, please, there is not a discussion permitted from the audience to council in these meetings. We have that as a council ordinance for years. And your, I'm just asking that you follow that because if you choose not to follow what you're going to have the same people up here saying that you choose not to follow council rules.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Well, I've allowed some latitude because there were questions directed to Jamie in that regard. And I will address that real quick. And I appreciate you bringing this to our attention. I can't believe that there's a law and I'm just a layman here, but I can't believe there's a law that states you have to put that information out for minor children. If there is I would really I'd like to see if and if not that happen ever again. I'm as upset about that as you are. As I was of even about keeping that information regarding the underage children at the pool out of Chuck's request. So I appreciate that. Thanks for bringing that to our attention. Alright, at this time, if there's anyone else wishing to address council please step forward state your name and address.

**CHUCK OSBORNE:** 307 Fairview Street SE, North Canton, Ohio. I hadn't planned on speaking but I've gotten plenty to speak about here tonight. Since you're pulling me into this public records request, I did initially ask for names and addresses of people who purchased pool passes. I modified that subsequently because I don't care about the names, I just wanted to know the quantity of passes and what address purchased those addresses. I was trying to determine the number of pool passes that are purchased, whether they're actually inside the City limits of North Canton or outside. So I wasn't looking for names. By the way, I'm, each of you seven smiling faces you've just been reprimanded by your subordinate here. How does that make you feel? He's going to tell you how things are run. Regarding Mrs. Rolls' comments about the accident out here, yes, very bad. Obviously, the City is not pedestrian friendly. Over 12 years ago, 13 years ago, on this when I was a member of this Council I put forth a proposal that we reduce the speed limit here on Main Street to 25 or 30. Pick something. But at 35 that's the minimum that your traffic is traveling down your street. That's a minimum. Several years ago, I tried to keep up with a truck and they were doing an excess of 45. And I really would have thought here a number of years ago, when Main Street

Grille invested in this community and you have patrons now sitting here out on the patio. They're within 3 feet of a vehicle doing 45 maybe sometimes 50 miles an hour. Where can you go all of Stark County, every community you almost go into when you're in the City limits its 25 miles an hour. I think we need a full-time police officer doing traffic enforcement. And you probably could more than pay for his salary. So for some border, pick one, from Bachtel up to somewhere, or down a little farther south reduce the speed limit. It would create an awareness of safety. And people would think "hey, I've got to slow down". You're trying to create all kinds of attractions around here and spur economic development. How can people come to your community when they're flying through it 45 and 50 miles an hour? Now as far, I'm going to flip flop back and forth here, as far as public records requests. Mr. Mayor, they are arbitrary. Number one, it depends on who's making the request. You guys fight me tooth and nail. Anybody else come up and this is the first I've heard about it, no questions asked. We'll give you everything including the kitchen sink. And I wasn't asking for the names. I was just trying to create an awareness of who you're spending this at least \$800,000 for, for this pool. Which common sense tells me that they're not going to have open in time next year. I don't know if anybody wants to talk about that. And I really question whether you're going to be able to bond a whole new kind of filtration system and drainage system to your existing old walls over there. So it's easy to sit back and take pot shots at you people because you create lots of opportunities. There's no discussion. And no knowledge. And quite frankly I'm amazed myself that they gave out the name of 30 little elementary school kids. And I would also question why you have to give out those names for children. And we all know even if you just put male, female. Is that what you suggested Mr. Fonte? (Yes, sir) It was an elementary school bus. You know they're all tiny little kids. Thank you.

**MAYOR HELD:** Okay, can I comment?

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Sure. Mr. Mayor?

**MAYOR HELD:** Yes, when it comes to public records, just to clarify. Chuck, you did ask for the names and the addresses of the residents. And that was something that clearly the law director had opposed. And certainly I did and council.

(Mr. Osborne spoke from the gallery and was not near the microphone.)

**MAYOR HELD:** Okay, and so just so that I can clarify this, we have no problem with giving you if indeed what you just said here at the meeting was to identify the number of residents that are inside the City and outside the City. We can give you that, that's not a problem without giving you the addresses. So and then

(Mr. Osborne spoke from the gallery and was not near the microphone.)

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Point of order, please. Find him out of order.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, so the thing is we can, what we can do is we can make sure that you get that documentation as far as number of pool passes that are in the City, number of pool passes that are outside the City. But I just wanted to make that you know that point clear. But when you're asking for specific addresses to the people the residents with the addresses that was you know, clearly the issue that we were trying to address. That's all I have.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Let me just say that you're, Mayor, you're being misled. Alright? Because the information that Mr. Osborne request he appealed this to the State Auditor's office. It required my office write an opinion of why that information should be withheld. The State Auditor's office looked at that information, and ruled on that, and said that the City properly withheld that information.

**MAYOR HELD:** Right.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Because it was required from the Ohio Public Records Act, the information that was provided so a minor could participate in an extracurricular sports activity in the City's swimming pool. That information was properly withheld. And now he's trying to claim that the City was playing games with him and withheld it. And it was the State Auditor's opinion.

**MAYOR HELD:** Right, no, I agree with you. I mean we know that we were in the right in what we were doing with that. But what I wanted to make you know clear of, is that it's not like we were just sitting back and just arbitrarily decide to...

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Well, he changed, he changed what he's asking for now. And then saying "well, if you're going to give me this, you should have given me that".

**MAYOR HELD:** Right.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** And it's not the same thing.

**MAYOR HELD:** No, I agree with you. I completely understand and that's why I wanted to clarify. But at any rate, the good news is that hopefully we have a better understanding of that with our public records. And I'll let you go onto the next item.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thank you. Well, there are no next items. Hold on one second. Let me make a few comments. I've allowed some latitude and this for the younger folks in the audience. I've allowed some latitude in this meeting, because there have been some back and forth, some questions from council to some of the folks that have come up and raised issues. This behavior here, yelling from the audience, because they're not happy with what we're saying is inappropriate. I think you

guys understand that. Please don't let that be a model for how you conduct yourselves in public. Especially in a situation like this. The law director is right. You know there is a point of order, that you know that public speaks is not when the back and forth really should go. But we initiated it. So I allowed that. And I allowed it to continue because I wanted to give the younger folks in the audience a model of what they shouldn't do. Because Chuck, you do it on a daily basis. And you make it sound like you are not given the same I'm not sure of the word I'm looking for, that we pick on you. But, and I'm here to tell you right now and I'll say this for you folks on the public record, this man has come to our homes, unannounced expecting full conversations. And we have in the past, have done that, I think that has pretty much stopped. As of late. But we have given you full access up here, back in the council office, in our homes. We haven't denied you, your basic right as a citizen. We've actually given you more latitude than anybody else in this City. Mark?

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Thank you. Couple of things on couple of those comments, I did pray for knowledge for us so hopefully we'll get some knowledge somewhere. Because I heard we don't have any. Secondly, the master plan is meeting in February and slowing down traffic is still on that list. That is not something that we have forgotten. We understand that, we don't need a wizard come up and tell us that. But we do understand that. As far as pedestrian safety, we do have some issues I hope we can look at those. But as far as safety we're one of the safest pedestrian areas. It's lit up at night, people walk, people run on the sides all the time. Okay, and that's something that we have to take a look at, anything, any time something happens whether it's our community members or someone else in this town that gets harmed or injured or in some kind of issue we will look at that. But to say we're not pedestrian safe is false. Completely false.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay, if there's anyone else wishing to address council, please step forward state your name and address.

#### 7. Reports – Council:

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Alright seeing none, we will move onto reports. Member Fonte.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** Okay, I'd like to say happy to see a lot of the Boy Scouts, they're trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. Aren't we?

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** Wow.

**COUNCILMAN FONTE:** And so you get a chance, so anyhow I'm very proud that you guys came. You got a chance to see how you know different opinions you know vary. You know, some people are bee keepers that smoke the bees out and some people poke the bees out. But either way the bees come out don't they? But anyway this is a good experience for you guys to witness it and get the different variations of what everybody's input is. And that's what it is all about. Now, onto the reports. Melanie, pertaining to what you're saying, you know, like I drive down East Maple and I get frustrated by the flashing lights and it's distracting to me and the lighting and the glare and all that. You know, it just seems to me like we'll probably have to regroup on this and decide if maybe we need to pause the turn signal while give people an opportunity to change you know walk across the path. I don't know if stopping all the lights and everything will be the best thing. But maybe there's a way that it can be looked at. They have cameras now, so they can review all that. And I'm sure that the engineer and whoever the smart people are can come up with a good plan. The other thing is, yes, I believe you know public records you know you don't want to not let the public records go. But it's always concerning with the way you've got to worry about safety now. So of course, you want to have the children protected. So obviously whatever the legal thing is we can do we'll do. As far as like this councilmembers, I want to make sure you guys look at the roads, potholes and everything as we go into the winter. Because we want to pick out the roads that are in shape so we can get them taken care of. So if you can get those over to Benekos' office or to me, you know, here in February I think we've got an email deadline. So that we can get a jump on the roads for the spring. And that's all I have to report today.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Member Werren.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** Welcome to the visitors. Nice to see some different people in the audience. And these are always good sessions to see how things work in government. A lot of people have never been to a council meeting. And they don't know what things to ask council people. Whether it's adjusting turn signals, whether it's looking at maybe deer population, different quarrels you might have with neighbors. There's just a lot of different things our council people do. So it's nice to see you guys here. Melanie, I think that's it's not an individual councilperson question. It's really we have experts I think that do that and we can make suggestions and obviously we need to regroup. But Jim Benekos is an expert and I would even thing Mike knows a lot more about how the signals work. And so I think we go to those experts and say "hey, this is working, we've had some concerns, we've had accidents, what can we do differently?" And Jim is out on those lights a lot, whether they're not regulated on a light to light basis or how they're working. But it's not just myself or Marcia or you know flipping a switch. Its, it's a lot more technical of a process. So I think we just have to engage Jim and think about how to do it differently. But to Mark's point, we're very pedestrian friendly City. People move here for our parks and our walkways. And I think we have a tremendously safe record in this community. So I'm proud of it and we'll continue to do what we think is the right procedures.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Member Kiesling?

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Yes, I completely agree. And I completely agree we need to look especially that intersection is

definitely a little crazy especially with the little curve in it. I'm happy to hear what Dan said about Stark Parks and looking at the other signals in the community. And yeah, I think maybe they could be take a lead in this and maybe more people will be on board as far as if we do stop all four lights at one time. Or if we change around the turn signals because it's going to take everybody get on board or it's going to be very, very cumbersome and frustrating for people in this community. Because traffic is really going to back up especially during rush hour if we do it at all four stop. So it is something we definitely need to discuss. The 7 of us do have some input obviously, but we are not the experts. So we will leave it to Jim and Mike and some our experts to decide what may work and may not. And then the other intersections in the community as well. But definitely something needs to change. We completely agree. So, I appreciate it.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Member Griffith?

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** Yeah, to add to the previous comment. Melanie, when you and I talked about it in 2012, I was reluctant to be supportive at that point just because of the traffic flow issues. But I actually think that the way that the lights have been timed now and the improvements that have happened there that it's a lot easier to move north and south on Main Street. And so an extra 10 seconds delay and particularly at couple of those really big intersections I don't feel today as detrimental as I did back then. So we'll start asking questions about it too. I think it's definitely worth looking into. So, and as far as the public record requests are concerned. I mean it seems like if anything this is the fault of a very thorough police officer is what I'm going to guess. Cause, obviously they've got to record whose there and what goes on. And every one of these traffic crash reports is public and always has been. So that will be the limitation is to say "hey, if we have minors do we need to put down their names and addresses"? But yeah, this certainly isn't a vendetta but it's worth looking into policy wise. I have one extra thing. And that is Karen and I will be meeting tomorrow about doing some bond refinancing for the City. Again, I love getting involved in these exciting projects that we do. But I think it's going to be very worthwhile and it can save us \$50,000 to \$70,000 a year. So a total of well over \$500,000 during the life of the bonds without any extra debt. So we're going to have that meeting tomorrow and then hopefully get that done in the next few months. But just wanted to bring that up so that we'll talk about it next week.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Yeah, Dan, to your point, do you want a Special Committee Meeting prior to the, no, we are going to have committee.

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** We have committee, so.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay, so we'll have that on the agenda next week.

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** Yeah, if we're planning a Tuesday meeting, then yes.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Yeah, next week is the holiday.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Oh, that's right.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Or we can do Special Committee before Council.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Yeah, we may have to do the following the week then. Is that okay?

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** Which is fine too, that's within our timetable as well. To do it 2 weeks from now and then, yeah.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Okay. Alright, very good. Thank you. Member Cerreta?

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** No report. Just a couple comments. You know, whether it's a sports team or the schools or here, we're always trying to make things better. And that's been on the radar, cause, you know when that Hoover District opens up there's going to be people walking, we hope, all over the place. And that has been something that's been talked about and how we're going to do that is it's just going to fold right in to any of these issues that are coming up here. Hopefully, sooner than later kind of thing. But it's going to need done sooner or later. And I'd rather see it done sooner too. But as people if we want our plan to really come forward we're going to have a lot of people walking downtown, hopefully. And we'll need to figure out some of those issues with that. And we will. We'll make it better.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Member Foltz?

**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** Thanks. Yeah, I like the participation from the audience. The public speak here. Melanie, I agree, you brought this up in October. We said we'd look at it, we looked at it. Obviously, we didn't do a good enough job with it. Cause, there was a major accident. And we also got to think about what's going on with West Maple. We are in the process of developing that area to put a turn lane in. As we know coming up to south of North Main. So I think this warrants some kind of a traffic engineering study. Jim's very talented but I don't know if he's a traffic engineer. I think there's it leads credence to put a small study together make sure we're addressing on these issues. Member Cerreta brought up the Hoover improvements. That's true. We want this to be pedestrian friendly. We want people to park somewhere and walk around our downtown area, go to the library. So we need to look at this. We also need to look at Applegrove, my constituents have, how you get across there. That's dangerous too. Its high volume. And unfortunately with success of the traffic signal for the most part improvements it does create more of a thoroughfare area for traffic not to slow down at any lights. And that's where the speed limits can increase. And I've always been in favor of looking to reduce our speed limits especially on Portage. So why

not look at everywhere. You know, there's nothing wrong with slowing down traffic and say "hey, listen we have things here in North Canton to visit, to see, to stop and purchase, or go to a restaurant". Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation, I've been involved with lately, is in the street diets and to look at that concept. Why are you having the traffic just run through your city as a transient from A to B? Why not slow it down and allow them to stop and become a customer of your city. I mean to stop by your restaurants or your establishments, your libraries, your commercial frontage here that's going to be at Hoover. That's what we should be looking at long term. And that goes back to the master plan. So I think this is a good entry into what we should be doing overall comprehensively for the city. And let's put it on the table. I mean maybe there's a way to do it that it all stops. Maybe there's a way just to lengthen the amount of time a pedestrian has when they do push that button. That's 10 more seconds, that's critical. Maybe there shouldn't be any right on reds in that intersection. I know coming from East Maple to the intersection you can't go right on red. I think we should look at that overall everywhere. You know. And that's really obviously take a tragic situation and improve it. I think that's what we're talking about here. As far as public records requests, I'm glad to see we're going to look into that. That's terrible if that was released if it shouldn't have been. You know, I can see the merit not releasing that information. And just to go back to Tim Fox's comments, I concur with public speaks, and I know our president gave latitude. He has the right to do it. But, it's not berating us, I've always felt when I'm sitting in the chair, public speaks you come up and talk to us. You make your opinion known, we address it later. If we so chose to engage in conversation that's fine, but it's the exception, not the rule. I think it runs a more orderly meeting. We are here after the meetings. We are here. We live in the community, we're available at all times as President Peters discussed. So, I just think, my goal this year is to run better meetings. And to have public decorum while we're having our meetings. And that's Robert's Rules of Order. We shouldn't be yelling out from the audience any time. Even to agree or disagree. Unless you are asked by a councilmember, but I think we really have to that needs to be exception more than a rule. So I concur with our law director on that. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thank you. And Melanie, thank you, also for your comments. You were basically in your comments up here you were highlighting the conversations the Mayor and I had the night of the accident. And there 3 or 4 subsequent conversations we had after that. We were horrified. I have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader that walk through that intersection. So I think it needs to be looked at. And I agree Doug, I think maybe a traffic specialist is important. Because we're faced with, you know, we want to put more jobs over there. We're not done yet. And they're not going to be 3, you know, 3 shifts like the Hoover Company was. Where you didn't have this onslaught of folks coming in at 7:30 and leaving at 4 or 5, whenever. And now we will. I mean we could probably put 3,000 plus jobs over there. Whereas before they were coming and going at all times of the day. Now they're going to becoming in the morning and the evening. On top of that, the retail aspect of it, it's yeah, we've got some issue. So I think they need addressed. And I appreciate your comments. And Jamie, again, I want to mention this, I am horrified that this was released. If there is a law that talks to this, I'd like to see it. And if not we need to address that immediately. I do have a question. Did I hear you correctly, when you said that Miriam made the public records request today?

(Jamie McCleaster from the gallery and was not near the microphone)

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Yep, exactly. Okay, so I think we definitely need to look at that. I mean if there is a law then let's look at it and understand it. If not let's put a moratorium on that. Or at least instruct them how to redact. Okay, that's it. Director of Law?

8. Reports:

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Yes, in the public record issue, the issue that we dealt with the request for the pool. There is actually in the Ohio Public Records Act. It states specifically that you're not permitted to provide the information that is collected for a sports or extracurricular activity, such as the swimming pool. When you collect that information, to be able to participate in a parks program, such as our City pool. The information that maybe provided in a police report, that's what I'm going to look at. That, you know, someone wrote that information down and it was perhaps it was provided without the person looking to redact it. But that's the reason that we and so many people complain about this, Chuck Osborne, Jamie McCleaster, many of those complain about this. This should not go according to them through the law director's office. This did not go through, and that's why we not just the law director, but we have a specific employee in administration that keeps an eye on that as well. That sees the information when it comes in and makes sure it goes to the law director and make sure the law director sees it again before it goes out. To make sure that either information is redacted or whether the information should be provided or if more information should be provided. So that's the that we hope to be the fail-safe to add a couple additional individuals for that information. But yeah, absolutely we'll take a look. I'll see what was provided and whether or not any of that information should be redacted in the future.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Director of Finance.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR ALGER:** I just want remind everybody that we are going with RITA; starting July. But currently we are still as we have in the past coming through our office and filing your income tax. So there's no changes then.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thank you. Director of Administration.

**DIRECTOR GRIMES:** Our electric aggregation was passed in November. We're starting to proceed on that. We're having some public hearings. The first is at 11:00 on January 19<sup>th</sup> here in the Council chamber. Second is at 5:30 on January 25<sup>th</sup> here in the Council chamber. So they'll last about 45 minutes if generally. The other one is just to reiterate on the public records



yes, the reason for gathering the information we'll check we've always been able to do that in the past give those things out through the police department. But we will obviously double-check on that to make sure we're doing that properly or nothing has changed on that. So, the other is, of course, on the auditor I was involved in that the auditor actually comes after me. I'm the one they ask the public records from. I'm the one that asked because it was a little odd; I asked the law director to take a look at it. So, law director just doesn't come over and you know to my office and just jump into things. He's got enough to do. So that was you know precipitated by me to ask him to review that. And once he gives me his legal opinion, I follow it and it was a perfect legal opinion in this case. So I didn't have to go to jail. So it worked out fine for me. The other thing, is on the crosswalk folks. First the engineer, the engineer, we all know Jim Benekos is a smart fellow. He's also smart enough to know that he doesn't know everything. We do have traffic consultants that we use all the time on different parts around the City. So we can get with them and have a look at the square. Obviously, like the Mayor said he was concerned as soon as he heard about the accident. We waited until the police got done with their investigation. Mr. Benekos and I both met with the police department downstairs to go over the accident and you know clean whatever information we can on that so we can pass that along to the traffic engineers. So, we are looking at that. Thank you, sir.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Mr. Mayor?

**MAYOR HELD:** Yes, just a few things I'd like to cover. We have first off, Councilman Griffith, thank you for looking at the bond financing, the refinancing. And also maybe upgrading our bonds.

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** That's right. Yeah, that's part of it, and hopefully knock on wood, we'll upgrade the City's credit rating. Which would be nice.

**MAYOR HELD:** Yeah, and so you're doing a very good job of it checking into that. Thank you for doing that. Save us money. And then Councilman Cerreta and Foltz, the master plan and how that ties with whether we slow down traffic, whether we add bike lanes to some or parts of the City, or whether or not we add off-street parking. All of that is on the table. Because obviously we want #1, a safe community, safe for our pedestrians. But then at the same time, we know that we're having some growing pains. Because we've got more businesses coming in and as our council president said we plan on having even more businesses. And hopefully residents coming into our city; so we've got to manage the growth. But I think really we're doing a very good job. We've got a safe community, very safe community. And we are very pedestrian friendly, but at the same time we want to make sure that we're operating at the highest and best level that we can be. And the safest to our residents. Also our council president, I appreciate the fact that you allow me the opportunity and the other councilmembers to have dialogue, you know, on specific issues or have some exchange. I think that sometimes, you know, you've got to have that depending on what the issue is. So thank you for allowing me to do that. And our law director, my feelings are not hurt at all by you allowing us or trying to keep us in line here. That's your job, that's your job. And for our students out there just so you know this gentleman over here to our left is our law director. His role is to make sure that all of us as elected officials are following the law and following the process. So as you can see he has no hesitation of reminding the Mayor if I start to drift a little bit outside of those boundaries. And you can see I politely, I politely and kindly move my way back in. Which is a good thing. But at the same time, thank you for keeping me in line and also for that latitude. I like latitude. That's a nice thing, to be able to talk a little bit. With our police department, we've got a number of positive changes we're going to be announcing over the next 4 weeks. One, is going to be and I don't have all the details as of it. But we're going to be requesting that council at the next meeting approve a cooperative for our SWAT team. And typically North Canton has operated independently and now we're going to be joining a cooperative. Which I would like to say it's the county, but really it's an independent agency that has 36 active members right now, Canton City Police Department belongs it, Canal Fulton, the Carroll County Sheriff's Department, Carroll County Police Department, Jackson, Lawrence, Magnolia, Minerva, Perry and the Stark County Sheriff. Which would also include Plain Township, because they're operated by the Stark County Sheriff. So this is real positive. The reason it's positive is because it really meets one of our primary goals here in the City. To become more cost efficient and effective. So we'll have 2 of our police officers that will be joining and they'll be on call. So if there's a SWAT team emergency, then depending on the call and the situation where it's at, our police officers will join them in their city or township. And then at the same time if we ever have an emergency here in North Canton then we've got all these resources. 36 trained officers that are working together that will all come together. So rather than just having a limited SWAT team here in North Canton. I mean we have 18 total police officers and there's you know we're never going to have everybody available at one moment on an emergency notice. But right now, we're going to be tapping into a SWAT team that has 36 active members that are training regularly together. And one example of the cooperatives that is very positive, is when we had that chlorine gas leak. And we had all of the hazmat firefighters and emergency personnel that were here within minutes. And they were able to handle the situation that by ourselves as a City we did not have the equipment, we did not have the resources, and we did not have the training to manage that emergency. But collectively when you have people working together you have a very positive outcome. So that is positive and we'll be bring that to council for council's approval I think at the next council meeting. And then also an update on body cameras. Our City Administrator Mike Grimes and the police chief have been reviewing body cameras for the police officers. Making sure we get the right body cameras, ones that work properly and intergrade into our system. I know we've been looking closely at the system that they use up in the City of Akron. And so we're going to be implementing that. And also the good news; it will allow our police department to be more effective. It's going to be safer for the residents, it's going to be safer for our police officers. But at the same time as far as being cost effective we do have, we've had a number of donations recently. And we'll be announcing those individuals too. You know, it's well over \$15,000 I think at this point. So, that's very positive, donating the money for at least a portion of the cameras. And then lastly we have oh, the public records, as far as public records you know, I've been dealing with a lot of public records requests over the past 15 years since I've been here. And you know, what our goal is, we want to be open and transparent. But I will tell you that there is you

know, the law is different as far as what you can request, what is to be given out. If it was simple, very simple clear cut request that's real easy to follow we wouldn't have to have the law director take a look at it. And then there are standard operating procedures in the police department. Because they operate as a paramilitary organization and they have, you know, their policies and procedures that they follow on a regular basis. So we're going to make sure that our public record requests that are going through our law director and how they interface with our police department which give out reports on a daily basis. You know, there is a clear distinction in those requests. And so we're going to make sure that the law director looks into that. And we know how those two interface. That's all I have. Thank you.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Thank you. Madame Clerk?

**COUNCIL CLERK BAILEY:** I only have one item which has to do with the civil service. I did receive the scores back for the promotional exam for the Captain in the fire department. Both individuals passed, so that was good. Next Thursday, January 21 at 8:35am there will be a Civil Service Commission meeting to accept the final scores. That's all.

9. Final Call for New Business:

10. Adjourn:

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Outstanding, thank you very much. Alright, seeing nothing further on the agenda I'll entertain a motion, oh, yeah, as far as next week. Since next Monday is the holiday we'll meet the following Monday; we'll start with the Special Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the bond.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Do you plan on putting it on the agenda for us to pass anything that night or?

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** No.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Okay.

**COUNCILMAN GRIFFITH:** No, I think probably 10 minutes at the most. I don't think you know, there's not, we're going to refinance and save money. That's it.

**COUNCILWOMAN KIESLING:** Well, there's not going to be anything on the agenda because it not; we have nothing to pass so our next council meeting we'll have nothing. So start it at 7:00pm.

**LAW DIRECTOR FOX:** Make it a special committee meeting; because you'll have no legislation to put before council. You could make a special committee meeting and introduce your legislation all of it there.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Yeah, and we'll do a roll call vote right now for that. So I'll entertain a motion and a second and a roll call vote to approve a Special Committee meeting on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> we'll do 7:00pm.

**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** Motion.

**COUNCILWOMAN WERREN:** Second.

Roll call vote of 7 yes for a Special Committee of the Whole meeting for Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00pm followed by Council Meeting.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** Alright, with that being said, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

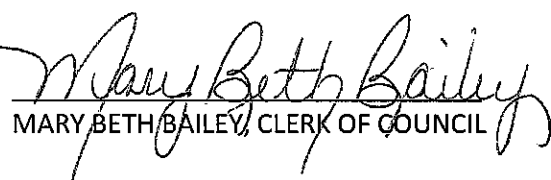
**COUNCILMAN CERRETA:** So moved.

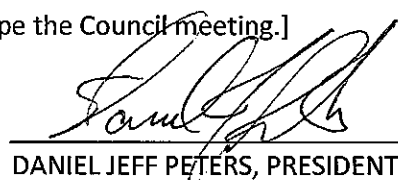
**COUNCILMAN FOLTZ:** Second.

Roll call vote of 7 yes to adjourn.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETERS:** We are adjourned.

[Let the record reflect Charles Osborne set up a tripod and appeared to videotape the Council meeting.]

  
MARY BETH BAILEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
DANIEL JEFF PETERS, PRESIDENT